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NPIC/IPD-234-66
13 July 1966

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant for Plans and Development, NPIC

ATTENTION: [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT: Multi Purpose Data Block Reader

REFERENCE: [REDACTED]

SME-AL-8, 30 June 1966

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1. A careful review of the reference document was performed and a number of comments and questions are given below. The document gives the basic concepts and methods [REDACTED] will use to accomplish the specific task assigned. The procedures and descriptive technical information however, quickly become confusing and vague as soon as the report enters into the area of the magnetic tape interface. At no time does the report mention operator action on the magnetic tape transport when operating the film reader. One without the other is meaningless.

2. It will be IPD's problem to construct a computer orientated reduction system for the data written on the magnetic tape. To do this I believe the report would be more meaningful if some diagrams were included that show the relationship of data on the film, to the way it will appear in memory, and then be written on magnetic tape. One must assume too many things to guess what will appear on the magnetic tape. Some specific questions on the output follows:

- a) Are unused bits set to zero?
- b) Is the parity even or odd?
- c) Is the mode of the tape BCD or binary?
- d) Is the recording density always 556 bits per inch?
- e) What is longitudinal parity and how is it generated?
- f) Is this longitudinal parity written on tape?
- g) After a job is completed what is written on the magnetic tape as an end sentinel? Is it a standard END OF FILE?
- h) What happens when there is a tape write error?
- i) What happens when a bad spot is detected on the magnetic tape?

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3. The above list of questions is a sample of the major areas of concern. IPD recommends that a rewrite be done by [REDACTED] before this report is acceptable. If necessary, discussions with the [REDACTED] project engineer could be held to explore these questions and others that may arise from conversation.

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[REDACTED]
Deputy Chief, Information Processing Division

Attachment: Report No. SME-AL-8

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Distribution:

Original - Asst for P&D (Attn: [REDACTED] w/att
1 - IPD w/o att